



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

APRIL 2013 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Eugene F. Kennedy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

Acting City Administrator

Robert L. Ashton

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Chris Cotillio

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It was 45 years ago this month that civil rights icon and Baptist minister Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. While he was taken from us physically his ideas, philosophy and belief's remain with us today. He was a man devoted to social justice and service to humanity. His life was one committed to others because he clearly understood the need for all of us to be engaged in improving our conditions. While we have a ways to go, because of his involvement our country is better today.

Along those lines and for our purpose in building A City of Excellence citizen participation is at the core of that activity. The preamble to the constitution starts with, "We The People..." While some voters vote in the election process every four years in Seat Pleasant that action alone does not absolve their responsibility of staying involved or engaged. The people must make known their wishes, desires and ambitions of a community and how they want the community to be formed, maintained and envisioned for the future. This is what Dr. King did.

This is not new. Since the beginning where associations among men and women have occurred participatory democracy (in a true republican form of government) have had an engaged citizenry. Historians have contended that freedom and the right to make decisions on the early American frontier was the shaping force in grass roots democracy, i.e., the people's right to participate, (Jackson 1962 and Billington (1974). Since we have that right to participate we should exercise that right to the fullest extent possible considering many of our ancestors were denied that right. We must work together to mold and shape our community in a structure that is beneficial for all.

Your engagement helps city leaders to make decisions that are based on the majority's will and at the same time safeguard the rights of the minorities. Your elected leaders are not mind readers. They are not clairvoyant. Our public servants are not "all knowing" and are subject to the same human fetters as others. The elected leaders in Seat Pleasant are not "perfect servants" but "public servants." Therefore, they need the advice and suggestions from the public to help navigate their deliberations and guide their actions in accordance to the will of the public.

However, when citizens are not engaged and are not participants in the democracy errors will be made, dissatisfaction will set in and chaos becomes eminent. Elected officials should not be put into a position where they make decisions on your behalf without your consent, your oversight and your involvement in the process. When left unchecked, political leaders are relegated to their own thoughts that sometimes produce an undesirable action because the citizens

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

were asleep metaphorically speaking.

Yes, it is difficult to commit sometimes to activities in the community given the number of responsibilities we juggle on a daily basis. However this is our community. This is our home. This is our place. No one will love it, take care of it, and have more pride in it than those of us who live here. We must recommit ourselves even as our ancestors committed themselves to make a life better for us which we enjoy today.

Participate in your own way. Come to a meeting. Serve on a committee. Help your neighbor. Help clean your neighborhood. Plant flowers and/or trees. Volunteer at Seat Pleasant Elementary School or at the Recreation Center. Check on your neighbor. Assist the elderly in our community. Plan an event. Come to the monthly City meetings. Give testimony during the budgetary process. There is so much you can do to serve.

In conclusion, we have a social, civic and moral responsibility to become engaged in our community. Conditions within our community will not change for the better by happenstance. Ask yourself the question, what am I doing for my community? What am I doing to improve my neighborhood? What are my contributions to Seat Pleasant? If you consider these questions and then do something, we will advance ourselves to become A City of Excellence. I humbly ask that as you read this message reevaluate your commitment and become involved in some way in YOUR community. When you are ready please send me an email eugene.grant@seatpleasantmd.gov and I will help you to become involved. Remember working together we can make this A City of Excellence.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council introduced the following legislations in the month of March.

Resolution R-13-15

Charter Amendment Resolution R-13-15, to Amend the Charter Regarding General
Obligation Borrowings



REPEAL AND RE-ENACT, WITH AMENDMENTS, SECTION C-817 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO BORROW MONEY FOR ANY PROPER PUBLIC PURPOSE AND TO EVIDENCE SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS (THE "OBLIGATIONS"); SPECIFYING THAT THE COUNCIL SHALL AUTHORIZE BY ORDINANCE (1) THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ANY SUCH OBLIGATIONS TO BE ISSUED, (2) THE PURPOSE(S) FOR WHICH SUCH OBLIGATIONS SHALL BE EXPENDED, (3) A PLEDGE OF THE SECURITY FOR SUCH OBLIGATIONS AND, IF APPLICABLE, A STATEMENT THAT SUCH OBLIGATIONS SHALL BE PAYABLE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FROM A SPECIFIED SOURCE OF REVENUE OR PROVISIONS FOR THE MAKING OF SUCH STATEMENT BY RESOLUTION, AND (4) A REQUIREMENT THAT PRIOR TO ISSUING ANY SUCH OBLIGATIONS THE COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT A RESOLUTION REGARDING CERTAIN MATTERS; PROVIDING THAT ANY SUCH RESOLUTION SHALL CONTAIN, DETERMINE, APPROVE OR PROVIDE FOR THE APPROVAL OF VARIOUS DETAILS REGARDING SUCH OBLIGATIONS

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Mayor and City Council will meet on the following days in the month
of February.

Monday, April 1, 2013

Regular Work Session

Time: 6:00p.m.

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(CLERK'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

Monday, April 8, 2013

Public Session

Time: 7:00p.m.

The meetings will be held at:

Seat Pleasant City Hall

Council Chambers

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, MD 20743-2125

If you desire to speak before the Council at the Public Session, please contact the City Clerk to register your concerns before the meeting.

Publication Mailing:

The Gazette Newspaper has discontinued the FREE home delivery of the paper to each resident in the City of Seat Pleasant. However, they have expanded the bulk delivery services to the following locations:

Seat Pleasant City Hall
6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Safeway Stores, Inc.
6300 Central Avenue
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Seat Pleasant Activity Center
5720 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

Fairmount Heights Public Library
5904 Kolb St.
Fairmount Heights, MD 20743



A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS

I will be bringing Ward I meetings to the Community. The meetings will be held in three locations. The dates, time and locations of the meetings will be announced at a later date. Please contact me if you have any concerns that need to be researched before the upcoming meetings. This will allow me the opportunity to research your concerns and be prepared to address them at the meeting. Please feel free to contact me anytime on 301-655-6559.

Yours In Excellent Service,

Elenora Simms

Councilmember Ward I

STATE HOMEOWNER TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

BY ROBERT ASHTON, ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND CITY TREASURER

The purpose of this article is to explain the program available from the State of Maryland to potentially lower your property tax burden.

The Homeowners' Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowners Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. This program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit

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(TAX CREDIT PROGRAM CONTINUED)

to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by the State of Maryland.

The Homeowners' Property Tax Applications will available on April 1, 2013. The deadline for submitting the Application is September 1, 2013. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of three ways listed below:

By Mailing the application to the address below

By Using the online Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2013).

By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

**Department of Assessment and Taxation
Homeowners' Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201**

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is: <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is: 410-767-4433.

If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230.

A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Street Sweeping 2 day operation is in effect from March 1, 2013- October 31, 2013. It is important to adhere to the street sweeper schedule in order to remove the sand, salt and debris accumulated on your streets over the fall and winter months. These accumulations on your roads present not only health and safety issues but environmental ones as well. Did you know that a regular municipal street sweeping program is an effective means of reducing pollutants contained in storm water runoff? Also, are you aware that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers street sweeping to be a "Best Management Practice" in protecting water quality? To comply with the Clean Water Act, the EPA encourages municipalities to follow a comprehensive street sweeping schedule to reduce pollutants that accumulate on the streets and contribute to storm water runoff that pollutes surface waters. Effective sweeping programs minimize pollutants in storm water runoff by removing tons of debris and particles annually.

HOME SAFETY TIPS FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

5 Million - Plus Homes are burglarized each year. 9 out of 10 are preventable!! Basic security measures will make your home a less inviting place for criminals. Here are some safety tips to remember:

- Keep car keys and house keys separate.
- Do not attach name or license tags to keys
- Do not leave messages on your phone or social media sites noting when you will leave or return home
- Do not leave delivery men or repair men in your home unsupervised.
- Do not open your door to strangers or unexpected people.

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(HOME SAFETY TIPS CONTINUED)

- Take a good look at anyone going to door to door in your neighborhood.
 - Talk to your children about home safety and security.
 - Do not leave keys under door mats, flower pots, etc.
 - Keep an inventory of valuable items
 - Be a good neighbor! If you see suspicious activity, contact the police.
-

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

BULKY TRASH COLLECTION: All bulk trash is collected on Wednesday by appointment only. You must call Bates Trucking by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to be placed on the list (Call 301-773-2069). You are only allowed three (3) large items. Residents please note if you don't call on Tuesday then you should not put any items out. If items are placed out and you're not on the pickup list you will be fined. All items for pickup should be placed out the night before. Any items that are placed out before dark the night before will receive a notice and are subject to a fine.

REGISTERING YOUR CAR AS A NEW MARYLAND RESIDENT: As a new resident of Maryland you must register your vehicle within 60 days of moving into Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you will not be eligible for a tax credit for any titling tax paid in another state, and you may be subject to citation for having an out-of-state registration. Please contact the local MVA to insure that you follow all guidelines to properly obtain registration in the state of Maryland.

Dual registration means that a vehicle is titled and registered in Maryland and the vehicle owner also holds a registration in another state. By Maryland law, you must register your vehicle if it remains in Maryland for 60 (sixty) days or more within a calendar year, even if it is already titled and registered in another state. As part of the dual registration process, both a Maryland Certificate of Title (and a Security Interest Filing (SIF), if a lien is involved) and a registration card are produced. You must carry both states' registration cards, and the license plates issued by both states must be placed in or on your vehicle (one set on the vehicle and one set in the trunk).

The only exceptions to Maryland's registration requirements are for those who are temporarily keeping the vehicle here because they are: a student; in the military; in a temporary work situation; or receiving extended medical treatment. In these cases, you must obtain a non-resident permit by submitting to the MVA an [Application for Nonresident Permit](#), VR-111.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE:

Beginning on April 1st the Seat Pleasant Code Enforcement department will start its first annual spring cleaning enforcement initiative. Here is a list of some of the violations that we will be inspecting throughout the City:

Rusted fences
Chipped paint on the exterior
Exterior oxidation stains

MAINTAINING EXTERIOR SURFACES OF YOUR HOME: It is important to maintain the exterior surfaces of your home. Property Code 304.2 states: All exterior surfaces, including but limited to doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks, and fences, shall be maintained in good condition. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay-resistance woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted. All siding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope and the perimeter of windows, doors and skylights, shall be maintained weather resistant and water tight. All metal surfaces subject to rust or corrosion shall be coated to inhibit such rust and corrosion, and all surfaces with rust and corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion.

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(CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED)

Oxidation stains shall be removed from exterior surfaces. Surfaces designed for stabilization by oxidation exempt from this requirement.

A WORD FROM CPAC

Talking/Texting While Walking



I was driving home from work the other day when suddenly a middle-aged man stepped off the sidewalk right in front of me. Fortunately, I was able to stop before I hit him. He was distracted because he was talking on the phone and it wasn't until after he had taken a few steps into the street that he realized where he was. He hurriedly returned to the curb and was, for the moment, out of danger. Has this happened to you? Have you ever talked on the phone or was texting so much that you didn't realize what you were doing? Studies have shown that so many fatal and near-fatal accidents have happened because people were talking/texting while walking. This has become a huge problem,

not only because your safety is at risk, but thieves also mark you as an easy target. You make it so easy for them to steal from you. When talking/texting while walking, you're not paying attention to what is going on around you and you aren't even aware of who is passing by. Did you know that your reaction or response time to dangerous situations is also slower because you're distracted? So, what's the solution? It's simple: put your phone down for a few minutes. Wait until you've taken a break or reached your destination. Whether you're talking or texting, walk with care, just as you drive. Teach your kids that safety should always come first. It may be cool to walk around with an iPod or phone, but tell them to get in the habit of thinking about the danger they could possibly face simply by not paying attention. And, this isn't just for the youth, it also applies to all of us, no matter our age. Stay focused on the task at hand - the life you save may very well be your own.

If you need any information or want us to discuss anything with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT

When's the last time you checked your smoke alarm? What about the last time you updated your home escape plan? If your answer is never, you need to call us TODAY! Homes in the Seat Pleasant community are older homes made of "sticks, not bricks", which is why preparation and prevention are important. The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company Inc. offers free smoke alarms, home escape planning, and prevention education to children. We will even come out to your neighborhood or civic association meetings and speak with homeowners about the importance of fire prevention and education. For more information on Seat Pleasant's fire prevention initiative, call 301-836-1957 or email phil.martin@seatpleasantfire.com. Also, remember we're on Twitter and Instagram @ENG8SQD and on Facebook at "Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company Inc." ^PM





Rushern L. Baker III
County Executive

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Be Prepared: Help Protect Yourself and Your Community. Become a CERT Volunteer!!!



Saturday, April 6, 2013 and Sunday, April 7, 2013 Training

(The training begins at 9:00 A.M. each day and should end no later than 5:00 PM)

www.delmarvasar.org

Central Communications Facility (Formerly)

7911 Anchor Street
Landover, Maryland 20785

To register for the upcoming CERT training beginning **Saturday, April 6, 2013**, please send an email to certsignup@gmail.com or email Shannon Snyder at countyec@co.pg.md.us

Please spread the word and encourage your family and neighbors to sign up for this great training!!!

Did you know...?

- There is a very good chance that your neighborhood will be on its own during the early stages following a catastrophic disaster.
- After a catastrophic disaster, citizens will volunteer to help. Without proper training, volunteers may expose themselves to potential injury and even death.
- Experience has shown that basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills improves the ability of citizens to survive until professional first responders or other assistance arrives.

The Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") program provides special training that enhances the ability of residents to prepare for, militate against, respond to, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. The program prepares citizens to help themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of an emergency. CERT Training is available in Prince George's County. Individuals completing the CERT training may be affiliated with a team formed through a neighborhood association, a private business, a municipality, a school or a nonprofit association. Individuals not affiliated with a team may still be trained and serve their communities.

**SEAT PLEASANT DAY
IS COMING!**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013



**OPENING CEREMONY
9:30 a.m.
WITH PARADE FOLLOWING**

**ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK
12 NOON - 5 P.M.**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
301-336-2600**

**CITYWIDE CLEANUP BEGINS
IN MAY**

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITYWIDE CLEANUP IS AS FOLLOWS:

**WARD I AND II
MAY 18**

**WARD III AND IV
MAY 25**

**WARD V
JUNE 1**



PUBLIC WORKS WILL BE AVAILABLE BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 2:00 P.M. TO ASSIST EACH WARD

RESIDENTS CAN PUT 3 BULK TRASH ITEMS CURBSIDE: 1 LARGE ITEM (I.E. SOFA, REFRIGERATOR), 2 SMALL ITEMS (I.E. CHAIR), TIRES (MAXIMUM 2)

PUBLIC WORKS WILL NOT PICK UP THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
BUILDING MATERIALS (PAINT, OILS, ROOFING, BRICKS, TILES, DRYWALL, ETC.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 301-336-2600

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEEETING

MAY 23, 2013

6:30 P.M.

AT THE



SEAT PLEASANT
VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT
6305 ADDISON ROAD
SEAT PLEASANT
MARYLAND

ATTENTION SEAT PLEASANT YOUTH!!

THE CITY WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE
ITS SUMMER YOUTH JOB TRAINING
PROGRAM.

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE
AGES OF 15 - 17



INTERESTED IN SUMMER
JOBS CAN OBAIN AN APPLI-
CATION AT SEAT PLEASANT
CITY HALL.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED WITH ALL
REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION BY APRIL 15TH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

301-336-2600

OTHER NEWS: THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL IS HAVING A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COUNTYWIDE FUNCTIONAL MASTER PLAN FOR PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013 AT 7 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL HEARING ROOM, FIRST FLOOR OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 14741 GOVERNOR ODEN BOWIE DRIVE UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 301-446-6850.